



**MARICOPA COUNTY**  
**Environmental Services Department**  
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May 23, 2000

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## **FOODBORNE ILLNESS PEAKS IN THE SUMMER**

*MARICOPA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTORS PROVIDE TIPS FOR THE PUBLIC*

Maricopa County Environmental Health Inspectors will be in local grocery stores on Thursday, May 25, 2000 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to provide safe outdoor food preparation and handling tips to the public as part of Maricopa County's "Serve It Safe" Summer Food Safety campaign.

Mo Heydari, Lead Environmental Health Specialist for Maricopa County says "Foodborne illness, also called "food poisoning," is more prevalent during the hot summer months. Most foodborne bacteria grow faster in hot temperatures and multiply quickly. We also, see an increase in outside activity. More people are picnicking, barbecuing and leaving their groceries in their cars for an extended period of time without proper temperature controls. The safety controls that a kitchen provides -- thermostat-controlled cooking, refrigeration, and washing facilities -- are usually not available. "

Maricopa County Environmental Services Department has teamed up with FDA, USDA and local super markets to educate people on how to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

Environmental health experts say that most foodborne illnesses are preventable by following some basic rules. They include:

- Wash hands, utensils and surfaces with hot soapy water before and after food preparation.
- Make Grocery shopping your last stop on your errand list or take a cooler to keep perishables cold.
- Separate raw meat, poultry, eggs, and seafood and their juices away from ready-to-eat foods; never place cooked food on an unwashed plate that previously held raw meat, poultry, eggs or seafood.
- Cook food to the proper internal temperature and check doneness with a food thermometer.

For information on the closest store for educational activities near you call (480) 820-7655. Environmental Health Specialist will be at the following stores on May 25, 2000 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.:

**Albertson's:**

8240 W. Deer Valley  
15660 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd.  
325 S. Power Rd.  
445 N. University Dr. (University & Stapley)  
(Outside Grilling)

Glendale  
Scottsdale  
Mesa  
Mesa

**Safeway:**

20205 N 67th Ave.  
14505 W. Glendale Ave.  
23565 N. Scottsdale Rd.  
520 W. Osborn  
90 S. Val Vista Dr.

Glendale  
Glendale  
Scottsdale  
Phoenix  
Gilbert

**Bashas':**

1122 N. Higley (Higley & Brown)  
1919 E. Ray Rd.

Mesa  
Chandler

**Fry's:**

20220 N. 59th Ave  
9245 W. Union Hills  
4842 E. Bell Rd  
855 W. Warner

Glendale  
Goodyear  
Phoenix  
Gilbert